

6/13/78 JAC

U.S. GOVERNMENT

Memorandum UNCLASSIFIED AZ 014

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TO : The Files

DATE: June 13, 1978

FROM : POL - F.A. Harris

SUBJECT: Prison Conditions in Coronda Prison (Santa Fe)

Anna Sahlin, American citizen sister of an Argentine PEN prisoner in Coronda (protect), provided the following information on June 13, 1978 regarding the prison conditions at Coronda Prison:

-- Food is terrible, consists mostly of boiled fatty meat.

-- A doctor occasionally visits the prison. Access by priests or psychologists is not allowed, although required by prison regulations.

-- Prisoners are forced to jump out of bed at 6:30 am with their sheets in their hands and answer a roll call. Any infractions are severely punished.

-- If prisoners are seen in groups of over five persons, all are punished. Guards stage this type of event as pretext to punish prisoners.

-- Prisoners are allowed only one hour outside of their cells daily.

-- Punishment: Loss of all "privileges" is most common form of punishment. Sentencing to the "tumbas" (tombs) is the severe punishment. Persons are generally sentenced to the "tumbas" for 20 days but allow to leave the "tumbas" after five days at which time their spirits are generally demolished.

-- Prisoners are forced to take cold showers every other day. They must run from shower room to their cold cells naked. This leads to constant respiratory problems in winter.

-- Prisoners whose glasses break are not permitted to receive replacements.

-- Hepatitis and respiratory illnesses are prevalent in Coronda Prison today.



5010-110

UNCLASSIFIED

Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan 81F184

42/48

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s):  
Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full  
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date Declassify on Reason

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-- Prisoners have no contact with the outside world except for bi-monthly family visits. No radio, television or newspapers are permitted for the political prisoners.

cc: AMB  
A/DCM  
POL  
POL/R

ARA/ECA  
HA/HR

POL:FAHarris:jk

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